THE WILSON BULLETIN

A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF ORNITHOLOGY

Published by the Wilson Ornithological Society

VOL. 95, NO. 1 MARCH 1983 PAGES 1–168

Wilson Bull., 95(1), 1983, pp. 1–6

GRALLARICULA OCHRACEIFRONS, A NEW SPECIES OF ANTPITTA FROM NORTHERN PERU

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In a review of new avian species described in the years 1956–1965, Mayr (1971:315) stated "South America, in particular, seems inexhaustible and has produced almost as many novelties (16) as the rest of the world (19). Indeed, it seems probable that, in the future, it will produce more novelties than all other continents and island regions together." This prediction was correct during the past decade. If the number of new species discovered per unit time is a crude measure of the "unknown quality" of an avifauna, the Andean region may be the major, and perhaps the last frontier in avian alpha taxonomy.

In August 1976, we collected a strikingly patterned *Grallaricula* antpitta near Abra Patricia, Dpto. San Martín, Peru. We propose to name this new species

Grallaricula ochraceifrons sp. nov.

OCHRE-FRONTED ANTPITTA

HOLOTYPE.—Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology No. 81998; adult male from 10 km (by road) below (NE) Abra Patricia, elev. approx. 1890 m (6200 ft) 5°46′S, 77°41′W; Dpto. San Martín, Peru, 30 August 1976; prepared by John P. O'Neill, original number 5715.

DIAGNOSIS.—A large, sexually dimorphic *Grallaricula* antpitta with heavily streaked breast and distinct black malar streaks (see frontispiece). Males differ from males of *G. flavirostris*, *G. nana*, *G. peruviana*, *G. lineifrons*, and *G. loricata* in having an ochraceous buff forecrown and dark hindcrown, rather than an olivaceous brown, ochraceous, or gray crown. The only known female is similar to females of *G. peruviana* but lacks buffy preocular spots (Fig. 1). *G. ochraceifrons* and *G. peruviana* appear to be the only sexually dimorphic species in the genus.

DESCRIPTION OF HOLOTYPE.—Wide eye ring ochraceous buff with indistinct dusky crescent extending from gonys upward around anterior portion of eye ring; forecrown and indistinct superciliary ochraceous buff; hindcrown, mantle, rump, and tail dark olivaceous brown; auriculars olivaceous brown with buffy bases; outer web of outermost primary and alula light ochraceous buff; primary edges light olivaceous brown; primary coverts blackish-

FIG. 1. Female *Grallaricula ochraceifrons*.

brown; axillars and carpal coverts light ochraceous buff. A thin buffy-white malar mark, bordered above and below by black, extends from the base of the bill posteriorly to lower lateral throat region; center of throat white, tinged faintly with buff and bordered laterally with black and buff feathers; feathers of upper breast and sides buff bordered laterally with wide black margins, producing a heavily streaked appearance; lower flanks indistinctly streaked olivaceous brown and dark brown; center of lower breast, belly, and undertail coverts white. Soft parts in life: iris dark brown; maxilla black, distal half of mandible black, light pink basally; tarsi and feet grayish pink.

DISTRIBUTION.—Presently known only from subtropical cloud forest at two localities in northern Peru: (1) at 1890 m in the Rio Mayo drainage below Abra Patricia, Dpto. San Martín; (2) at 1950–1980 m east of La Peca on Cordillera Colán, Dpto. Amazonas (Fig. 2).

SPECIMENS EXAMINED.—*G. flavirostris*: (FMNH) 1 ♂, 1 ♀ El Carmen, Dpto. Nariño, Colombia; (LSUMZ) 2 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀ Afluente-Abra Patricia, Dpto. San Martín, Peru; (LSUMZ) 3 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀ Cordillera Azul, Dpto. Loreto, Peru; (FMNH) 1 ♂ Oresmapno, Dpto. Junín, Peru; (LSUMZ) 1 ♂, 1 ♀, 1 unsexed, Bosque Aputinye, Dpto. Cuzco, Peru; (LSUMZ) 1 ♂ Alto Palmar, Dpto. Cochabamba, Bolivia. *G. ferrugineipectus*: (LSUMZ) 1 ♀ 33 km SW Huancabamba, Dpto. Piura, Peru; (LSUMZ) 7 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀ La Peca-Cordillera Colán, Dpto. Amazonas, Peru; (LSUMZ) 2 ♂♂, 1 unsexed 33 km NE Ingenio, Dpto. Amazonas, Peru; (LSUMZ) 6 ♂♂, 1 ♀ Cumpang-Mashua, Dpto. La Libertad, Peru; (LSUMZ) 8 ♂♂, 14 ♀♀, (FMNH) 1 ♀ Cordillera Carpish, Dpto. Huánuco, Peru. *G. nana*: (FMNH) 1♂ Cerro Munchique, Dpto. Cauca, Colombia; (FMNH) 1♀ Florente, Dpto. Nariño, Colombia; (LSUMZ) 4 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀ Cerro Chinguela, Dpto. Piura-Cajamarca, Peru. *G. loricata*: (FMNH) 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (AMNH) 1 ♂, 1 ♀ La Cumbre de Valencia, Venezuela. *G. peruviana*: (ANMH) 1 ♂ (type) Chaupe, Dpto. Cajamarca, Peru; (LSUMZ) 2 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀, Playon-Lucuma on Sapalache-Carmen Trail, Dpto. Cajamarca, Peru. *G. lineifrons*: (AMNH) 1 ♀ (type) Oyacachi, Ecuador. *G. ochracei-*

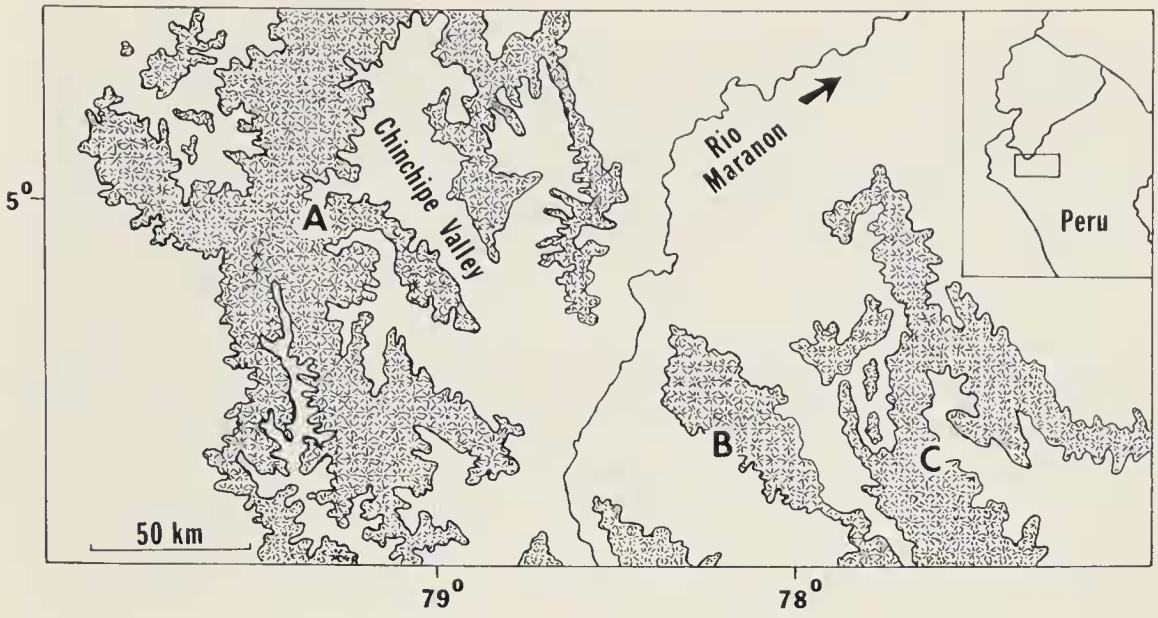

FIG. 2. Distribution of highlands (stippled) exceeding 2000 m elev. along the lower Rio Marañón in northern Peru. The known elevational ranges of sympatric *Grallaricula* species at localities A, B, and C are: (A) Playon-Cerro Chinguela, Dpto. Cajamarca, *peruviana*—1680–2130 m, *nana*—2590–2900 m; (B) La Peca-Cordillera Colán, Dpto. Amazonas, *ochraceifrons*—1950–1980 m, *ferrugineipectus*—1890–2900 m; and (C) Afluente-Abra Patricia, Dpto. San Martín, *flavirostris*—1070–1680 m, *ochraceifrons*—1890 m.

frons: (LSUMZ) 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀ Abra Patricia, Dpto. San Martín, Peru; (LSUMZ) 2 ♂♂ La Peca-Cordillera Colán, Dpto. Amazonas, Peru.

REMARKS.—Dorsally, the female is slightly darker than the male, with only a suggestion of the brightly colored forecrown (see frontispiece). The white belly and undertail coverts are lightly tinted with buff. The eye ring is incomplete with a few ochraceous buff feathers near the corners of the eye.

All the *ochraceifrons* specimens appear to be in adult plumage (18 July–30 August). The two specimens from Cordillera Colán are distinctly buffy on the lower belly and undertail coverts. Whether this is due to individual variation or subspecific difference is not known.

ETYMOLOGY.—The specific epithet and English name refer to the ochraceous buff forecrown of the male.

NATURAL HISTORY NOTES

Grallaricula ochraceifrons was first netted in dense undergrowth of epiphyte-laden, stunted cloud forest at 1890 m elev. on the eastern slope of the Eastern Cordillera of the Andes, Dpto. San Martín (see O'Neill and Graves 1977). In 1978, T. S. Schulenberg (18 July) and G. L. Graham (17 August) each collected a male *ochraceifrons* in the understory of tall, humid, cloud forest (canopy ca. 25 m) on the western slope of Cordillera Colán, Dpto. Amazonas. As in other species of *Grallaricula*, the new

species is quite difficult to observe in the field. The vocalizations of other Peruvian *Grallaricula* (e.g., Slate-crowned Antpitta [*G. nana*], Ochre-breasted Antpitta [*G. flavirostris*], Rusty-breasted Antpitta [*G. ferrugineipectus*]) are easily recognized; however, the songs and call notes of *ochraceifrons* are unknown to us despite intensive efforts to identify and record them. The fact that no specimens were mist-netted on Cordillera Colán (up to 30 nets were set daily near areas where the two specimens were collected) suggests that this species may well be uncommon or rare. In all, this antpitta was seen only twice during 23 days of fieldwork (approx. 80 observer h) in the above localities. None of the specimens had enlarged gonads. It is interesting to note that *ochraceifrons* was syntopic with the more common and slightly smaller *ferrugineipectus* on Cordillera Colán (Table 1). We know of no other locality in Peru where two species of *Grallaricula* occur in the same place. In San Martín, *flavirostris* was fairly common just below the elevational range of *ochraceifrons* (see Fig. 2).

The systematic relationships of *ochraceifrons* are obscure, but similarities in plumage and elevation of collecting stations combined with their known allopatric distributions, indicate that *ochraceifrons* and the Peruvian Antpitta (*G. peruviana*) are closely related, perhaps superspecifically. *G. peruviana* is apparently restricted to the watershed of the Rio Chinchipe, a tributary of the Rio Marañón some 120 km northwest of Cordillera Colán. A similar pattern of allopatric replacement across the lower Rio Marañón occurs in several other forest genera (e.g., *Coeligena*, *Metallura*, *Schizoeaca*, *Thripadectes*, *Grallaria*, *Leptopogon*, *Iridosornis*). In certain plumage characters, *ochraceifrons* superficially resembles the Crescent-faced Antpitta (*G. lineifrons*) of Ecuador and Colombia, and the Scallop-breasted Antpitta (*G. loricata*) of Venezuela, but pending additional information on vocalizations, which may be of primary importance in species recognition in antpittas, we hesitate to speculate further on the systematic relationships of *ochraceifrons*.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We sincerely thank L. J. Barkley, M. B. Braun, J. W. Eley, G. L. Graham, D. R. Hunter, M. Sanchez, T. S. Schulenberg, R. D. Semba, K. Wehr, and M. D. Williams for hard work and sheer endurance on a series of expeditions to northern Peru which provided comparative material for this description.

Our fieldwork was generously supported by John S. McIlhenny, E. W. Mudge, Babette M. Odom, H. Irving Schweppe, Laura R. Schweppe, and the LSUMZ. Arturo Koenig, Helen Koenig, Manuel Plenge, Isabel Plenge, and Gustavo del Solar provided much appreciated support in Lima and Chiclayo. We thank the curators of the Field Museum of Natural History (FMNH) and the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) for the loan of specimens. Graves and Parker were able to examine type specimens while supported by Frank M. Chapman Memorial Grants. We thank K. C. Parkes, J. V. Remsen, T. S. Schulenberg, and

TABLE 1

RANGES AND MEANS (MM) OF SELECTED MEASUREMENTS OF *GRALLARICULA* ANTPITTAS

		Wing chord	Tail	Tarsus	Culmen from base	Weight (g)
G. ochraceifrons[a]	4 ♂♂	73.2–75.3 (73.2)	31.7–33.5 (32.6)	24.8–26.7 (25.9)	16.7–17.3 (17.1)	22.5–23.8 (23.1)
	1 ♀	71.2	31.9	27.0	16.9	—
G. flavirostris[b]	2 ♂♂	63.3–65.7 (64.5)	26.3–27.6 (27.0)	21.9–23.0 (22.5)	15.1–16.3 (15.7)	14.5–15.2 (14.9)
	3 ♀♀	63.0–64.2 (63.4)	24.4–27.4 (26.0)	22.3–24.4 (23.3)	15.4–16.1 (15.7)	15.6–17.7 (16.8)
G. ferrugineipectus[c]	7 ♂♂	69.5–74.9 (72.0)	38.0–41.6 (39.9)	25.0–27.2 (26.2)	15.4–17.5 (16.7)	15.5–18.5 (16.6)
	3 ♀♀	66.8–68.4 (67.7)	36.1–38.6 (37.6)	25.9–26.4 (26.2)	15.5–16.1 (15.9)	16.5–17.0 (16.7)
G. peruviana[d]	2 ♂♂	70.0–70.8 (70.4)	30.6–30.7 (30.7)	23.5–24.0 (23.8)	16.6 (16.6)	17.0–17.5 (17.3)
	3 ♀♀	69.6–71.5 (70.6)	31.1–31.6 (31.4)	23.7–24.5 (24.2)	15.8–16.6 (16.3)	19.5–21.0 (20.2)

[a] Abra Patricia, La Peca-Cordillera Colán, Dptos. San Martín and Amazonas.
[b] Afluente-Abra Patricia, Dpto. San Martín.
[c] La Peca-Cordillera Colán, Dpto. Amazonas.
[d] Playon-Cerro Chinguela, Dpto. Cajamarca.

M. D. Williams for helpful comments. The Direccion General Forestal y de Fauna of the Ministerio de Agricultura, Lima, Peru, provided permits and supported our research.

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COLOR PLATE

The colorplate Frontispiece of the Ochre-fronted Antpitta (*Grallaricula ochraceifrons*) has been made possible by an endowment by the late George Miksch Sutton. Painting by John P. O'Neill.